

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0290) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What are the discretionary grants programs managed by this portfolio? For the discretionary grants programs managed by this portfolio please outline: • How are they administered? • Who is the decision maker? • In relation to each of these programs is there an industry advisory body – or some other form of advisory body – that is involved in the assessment process for grant applications? • If so, who is on each of these advisory bodies? • Were these bodies in place before the election? • Have there been any changes since the election? Has there also been a pause in the release of funding for grants under these discretionary grants programs? • If so, what are the details? • What advice has been provided to stakeholders about the nature and purpose of the pause? • Did this pause include grants that had been advertised but not yet finalised? • Did this pause include grants where decisions had been finalised but recipients had not yet been notified? • Is there an indicative timeline as to when successful recipients of grants can expect to hear from the Government? • Are there any exceptions to the pause either in terms of programs or individual grants within a particular program? If so, what has been the process around determining any exemptions? How many grants or programs in this portfolio have been exempted and what are the details? What was the process used to identify a grant or a program that would be excluded from the pause. Who was the decision maker in each case where a grant or program was exempted from the pause? • Since the election has there been any change to these assessment processes and decision making arrangements? If yes, where did the direction come from to make these changes?

Answer:

a) The Department administers three grant programmes. These are:

- Refugee Council of Australia grant programme: The decision maker is the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship. Note: The decision in relation to this grant was made by the former Minister for Immigration and Citizenship.
- Migration Research programme: The decision maker is Deputy Secretary, Policy and Programme Management Group.
- Irregular Migration grant programme: The decision maker is Deputy Secretary, Policy and Programme Management Group.

b) No advisory bodies are involved in the assessment of these grant applications. The remainder of the questions under this heading are, therefore, not applicable.

c) There have been no ‘pauses’ in funding these grants programmes. The remainder of the questions under this heading are, therefore, not applicable.

MRT-RRT:

The MRT-RRT does not manage any discretionary grants programs.

Australian Customs and Border Protection

Q1-20 Not applicable.

Operation Sovereign Borders

Nil.